

“JERUSALEM MEETS ROME AND FINDS BABYLON: A STUDY IN CHURCH PURITY”

FALL 2022-SPRING 2023

February 22, 2023

“THE CONTEXT OF THE CHURCH – part 2”

I. WHAT IS MEANT BY “BABYLON”

- A. Babylon symbolizes the philosophy of society without Creator God or the Most High God; the creation of a utopia based on conquest, theft and human destruction or captivity and seeing it all as a divine blessing*
- B. Babylon is a society made for elites by using the rest of the population to create their wealth; it gives the population the “toys” or provisions they need to be stupidly happy; it is false security*
- C. Babylon is a religious system of the worship of the creature or the created especially to the neglect of God and His people*
- D. Babylon is the mother of all harlots or covenant breaking prostitution for pleasure and dominance*
- E. Babylon is ritualized worship using sorcery, manipulation, intimidation and supernatural powers administered through shaman, male or female to reach spiritual heights*
- F. Babylon is perverting God’s natural laws to provide protection and provision for the thieves who use her*

II. THE GRECO-ROMAN WORLD

- A. Military centered: created the empire; maintained the empire’s infrastructure; provided structure; prestige; honor; specialties; uniform recognition*
- B. Rigid social structure: provides recognizable hierarchical structure; division of labor with heavy emphasis on slavery as the engine of the economy; divisions of citizenship levels and recognitions in this area; honor and shame as opposed to guilt – one is based on public opinion, the other was a break with God’s law*
- C. Marriage and family: women in society; Greek women were mostly hidden away in their home over which they had almost total rule with property and children;*

- D. Children and education: Abortion for too many and exposure for girls; boys had to be “adopted” into the family; classical education in 3 levels;*
- E. Citizenship and social clubs: Identity groups; social groups; patron-client; friendships; evangelism could work well through friendships and social clubs though it often did not mean actual new birth but merely conversion to some new value system not too far from what one already knew; the social clubs were structured to easily fit the practice that Jesus commanded His disciples to practice.*
- F. Roman law*
- G. Religions: the gods; the gods tried to keep the society at a proper balance with ethics and standards; the rituals; the celebrations; the stories; the virtue and the honor; the priests; worship is really more like veneration and the desire to please the gods*
- H. Philosophers: Took on the role of prophets, priests, creators of mythologies; hugely important to the fabric of society and clarifying its values*